



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

859 First Street | Macon, Georgia 31201 | 478.621.0744 (office)
www.holycrossga.org | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Meatfare/Judgement Sunday

St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Second (Mark 16:1-8)

Mode of the Week: Second / Δεύτερος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, February 23

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Judgement (Meatfare) Sunday
 Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
 Memorial Service for the Saturday of the Souls at the end of the Liturgy
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy
 12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek School
 2:00pm Youth Activity (Urban Air in Macon)

Tuesday, February 25

11:00am Orthodox Book Study (at Taste and See in Macon)
 5:30pm Vespers
 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class (Church Library/Zoom)
 6:30pm Choir Practice

Saturday, March 1

9:30am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Cheesefare Saturday
 Memorial Service for the Saturday of the Souls at the end of the Liturgy
 3:00pm Holy Baptism of Mary Elizabeth Hollowell

Sunday, March 2

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Forgiveness Sunday
 Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy
 12:15pm Handmaidens and Altar Server Meetings in the Church
 12:45pm Adult Greek School
 1:30pm Forgiveness Vespers (for the beginning of Great Lent)

Monday, March 3

5:30pm Great Compline

Tuesday, March 4

11:00am Orthodox Book Study (at Taste and See in Macon)

Wednesday, March 5

5:45pm 9th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a Light Lenten Meal and Spiritual Discussion in the Parish House

Friday, March 7

6:00pm Small Compline and the 1st Salutations to the Theotokos

Saturday, March 8

9:30am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service commemorating the Miracle of St. Theodore and the Kollyva
 3:45pm Adult Catechumen Class
 5:00pm Great Vespers

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (3/2) Kostas Iakovidis, Rene Esquivel; (3/9) George Saratsiotis, Isabelle Saratsiotis
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (3/2) Chad Ridley; (3/9) Gray Yates; (3/16) Natalia Saratsiotis; (3/23) Jim Lekas
Upcoming Ushers: (2/26) James S.; (3/1) James S.; (3/2) Sarah D., Harris S.; (3/3+5) Harris S.; (3/7) Charles G.
Upcoming Video Operators: (3/2) Natalia S.; (3/3) OPEN;(3/5)Natalia S.:(3/7) David N.:(3/8) Norm A.:(3/9) Gray
Fellowship Hosts: (3/2) Eleftheria Trettel; (3/9) Tassie Cantrell; (3/16) Chad Ridley; (3/23) Philoptochos/Eleni A.

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a **warm welcome** to all worshipping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is offered only to Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.
Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!

Epistle Reading

*Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ
ἰσχὺς αὐτοῦ.*

*Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθὸς
Κύριος.*

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*Πρὸς Κορινθίους Α' Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, βρῶμα ἡμᾶς οὐ παρίστησι τῷ Θεῷ· οὔτε γὰρ ἐὰν φάγωμεν περισσεύωμεν, οὔτε ἐὰν μὴ φάγωμεν ὑστερούμεθα. βλέπετε δὲ μήπως ἡ ἐξουσία ὑμῶν αὕτη πρόσκομμα γένηται τοῖς ἀσθενοῦσιν. ἐὰν γὰρ τις ἴδῃ σε, τὸν ἔχοντα γνῶσιν, ἐν εἰδωλείῳ κατακείμενον, οὐχὶ ἡ συνείδησις αὐτοῦ ἀσθενοῦς ὄντος οἰκοδομηθήσεται εἰς τὸ τὰ εἰδωλόθυτα ἐσθίειν; καὶ ἀπολεῖται ὁ ἀσθενῶν ἀδελφὸς ἐπὶ τῇ σῆ γνώσει, δι' ὃν Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν. οὕτω δὲ ἀμαρτάνοντες εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφούς καὶ τύπτοντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενοῦσαν εἰς Χριστὸν ἀμαρτάνετε. διόπερ εἰ βρῶμα σκανδαλίζει τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, οὐ μὴ φάγω κρέα εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἵνα μὴ τὸν ἀδελφόν μου σκανδαλίσω. Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος; οὐκ εἰμὶ ἐλεύθερος; οὐχὶ Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν τὸν Κύριον ἡμῶν ἑώρακα; οὐ τὸ ἔργον μου ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν Κυρίῳ; εἰ ἄλλοις οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος, ἀλλὰ γε ὑμῖν εἰμι· ἡ γὰρ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν Κυρίῳ.

*Great is our Lord, and great is His
strength.*

*Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord
is good. (Psalm 146/134)*

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*The reading is from Paul's First
Letter to the Corinthians.*

(8:8-13, 9:1-2)

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Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (25:31-46)

Meatfare/Judgement Sunday

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὅταν δὲ ἔλθῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐν τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἅγιοι ἄγγελοι μετ' αὐτοῦ, τότε καθίσει ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καὶ συναθροίσεται ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, καὶ ἀφοριεῖ αὐτοὺς ἀπ' ἀλλήλων ὡσπερ ὁ ποιμὴν ἀφορίζει τὰ πρόβατα ἀπὸ τῶν ἐρίφων, καὶ στήσει τὰ μὲν πρόβατα ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ, τὰ δὲ ἐρίφια ἐξ εὐωνύμων. τότε ἐρεῖ ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῖς ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ· δεῦτε οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρὸς μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτοιμασμένην ὑμῖν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου. ἐπέいなσα γάρ, καὶ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ ἐποτίσατέ με, ξένος ἦμην, καὶ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ περιεβάλετέ με, ἠσθένησα, καὶ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με, ἐν φυλακῇ ἦμην, καὶ ἤλθετε πρὸς με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ οἱ δίκαιοι λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα καὶ ἐθρέψαμεν, ἢ διψῶντα καὶ ἐποτίσαμεν; πότε δέ σε εἶδομεν ξένον καὶ συνηγάγομεν, ἢ γυμνὸν καὶ περιεβάλομεν; πότε δέ σε εἶδομεν ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ ἤλθομεν πρὸς σε; καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐρεῖ αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἀδελφῶν μου τῶν ἐλαχίστων, ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. τότε ἐρεῖ καὶ τοῖς ἐξ εὐωνύμων· πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ οἱ κατηραμένοι εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ αἰώνιον τὸ ἡτοιμασμένον τῷ διαβόλῳ καὶ τοῖς ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ. ἐπέいなσα γάρ, καὶ οὐκ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ οὐκ ἐποτίσατέ με, ξένος ἦμην, καὶ οὐ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ οὐ περιεβάλετέ με, ἀσθενῆ καὶ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐκ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ καὶ αὐτοὶ λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα ἢ διψῶντα ἢ ξένον ἢ γυμνὸν ἢ ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐ διηκονήσαμεν σοι; τότε ἀποκριθήσεται αὐτοῖς λέγων· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον οὐκ ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων, οὐδὲ ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. καὶ ἀπελεύσονται οὗτοι εἰς κόλασιν αἰώνιον, οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον.

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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Office Days: Tuesday through Friday; call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of February 23, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Joanna Patronis

Video: Gray Y./David N. **Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Kostas Iakovidis (Greek); Chrissy Zdrakas (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Cristina Lekas

PC Member On-Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Judgement/Meatfare Sunday (Κυριακή των Απόκρως)

The last two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds. It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end. All foods, except meat and meat products, are allowed during the week that follows this Sunday.

+ The Holy Hieromartyr Polycarp (Πολύκαρπος), Bishop of Smyrna (+167)

+ Our Devout Fathers of the Syrian Desert: John (Ιωάννης), Moses (Μωϋσής), Antiochus (Αντιόχος), Antoninus (Αντωνίνος), Zebinas (Ζεβινάς), Polychronios (Πολυχρόνιος), Moses (Μωϋσής), and Damian (Δαμιανός) (+5th c.)

+ The Devout Gorgonia (Γοργωνία), sister of St. Gregory the Theologian (+370)

+ The Holy Martyr Clement (Κλήμης)

+ The Holy Martyr Thea (Θεή)

+ The Devout Ascetic Damian (Δαμιανός) (+1280)

Through the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (pg. 8 in the Small Book/pg. 37 in the Hymnal):

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Ότε κατήλθες, Second Mode):*

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, "O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!" (Sung before and after the Small Entrance, Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 102)

- *Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, First Mode):*

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

- *The Kontakion of Judgement Sunday, (Όταν έλθης ο Θεός, First Mode):*

When You come down to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all things will cower tremulous, and a river of fire will draw before Your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened up, and public knowledge will things hidden be. Rescue me, then, I pray, from unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O You, the most righteous Judge. (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg.260)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, February 23: Meatfare Sunday—No Fasting:

Mark 16:1-8; I Corinthians 8:8-13, 9:1-2; Matthew 25:31-46

Monday, February 24—Dairy, Eggs, Fish, Oil, Wine:

Luke 7:17-30; II Corinthians 4:6-15; Matthew 11:2-15

Tuesday, February 25—Dairy, Eggs, Fish, Oil, Wine:

Jude 1:1-10; Luke 22:39-42, 45-71, 23:1

Wednesday, February 26—Dairy, Eggs, Fish, Oil, Wine:

Joel 3:12-21; Joel 2:12-26

Thursday, February 27—Dairy, Eggs, Fish, Oil, Wine:

Jude 1:11-25; Luke 23:1-31, 33, 44-56

Friday, February 28—Dairy, Eggs, Fish, Oil, Wine:

Zechariah 8:7-17; Zechariah 8:19-23

Saturday, March 1—Dairy, Eggs, Fish, Oil, Wine:

Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2; Matthew 6:1-13

Prayer Requests:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Mike, Panteleimon, Michael, Kassiani, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, Betty, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Brian, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian, Paul, Lucas, Leo, Barry, Nicholas, Kevin, Andy, Karen, Vera, Adam, Debbie, Alberto, Sadith, Richelle, Marion

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Fr. George Pallas (+January 15), Cecilia (+January 21)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Schyler J.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Alexander, Bobbie, Dakota, Hannah, Jessica, Mary Elizabeth, Mary Emma, Nate, Sebastian, Sophia, Susan, Tammy and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

The Book "Unseen Warfare", a classic of Orthodox spirituality, on judgement—the theme of this very Sunday: "Since the enemy watches you constantly, waiting for an opportunity to sow evil in you, be doubly watchful over yourself, lest you fall in the nets spread for you. As soon as he shows you some fault in your neighbor, hasten to repel this thought, lest it take root in you and grow. Cast it out, so that no trace is left in you, and replace it by the thought of the good qualities you know your neighbor to possess, or of those people generally should have. If you still feel the impulse to pass judgment, add to this the truth that you are given no authority for this and that the moment you assume this authority you thereby make yourself worthy of judgment and condemnation, not before powerless men, but before God, the all-powerful Judge of all. This reversal of thoughts is the strongest means, not only for repelling accidental critical thoughts, but also for completely freeing yourself of this vice."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

February 23: Pamela Gorgonia Poulos

February 26: Fotini (Tammy) Cantrell

February 28 (29): Kassiani Andros

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

February 23: Nicholas Poulos

February 26: Carter Zoumberis

February 27: Jessica Holland

February 28: Ana Habic

February 29: Marie-Louise Saratsiotis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

February 27: George and Georgia Saratsiotis

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

* **Youth Greek School** will be taking place at approximately 12:45pm in the upstairs classroom. **Bible Study** will begin at approximately the same time in the back coffee hour room.

* **Youth:** Next Youth Outing is TODAY after Greek School at Urban Air on Tom Hill Sr. Road in Macon. Save the Date for the next outing, Sunday, March 23 (Pickleball) taking place after Coffee Fellowship/Greek School.

* The next **Choir Practice** is planned for this coming Wednesday at 6:30pm. If you are in choir, we hope you can make it as we continue to work on our current material and plan for new material!

* **The Orthodox Book Study** continues this Tuesday, February 25 at 11:00am at Taste and See in Macon as we continue to read the book *Rediscovering the Goodness of Creation: A Manual for Recovering Gnostics* by Robin Phillips. Even if you haven't joined yet, feel free to come and participate in the discussion!

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will be taking place this Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30pm in the Library and on Zoom. The topics will be "Asceticism/Monasticism and Virtues/Holiness of Man." Please contact Father Theodore for more information and the Zoom link.

* **Altar Boys/St. Photini Handmaiden**, please save the date for a meeting taking place next Sunday after Sunday School. This will be important as we prepare for Great Lent!

* **Lent, Holy Week & Pascha Preparations** have been emailed out. There are many ways to help—adorning icons, providing meals, organizing children, reading, and more! If you'd like to volunteer, contact Natalia Saratsiotis. Scan the QR Code for opportunities. Donations are also welcome. Thank you for your support!



* Our Holy Cross parish is invited to two **Pan-Orthodox Vespers** as we enter into Great Lent. On Sunday, March 9 at 5:00pm, there are Atlanta-Area Pan-Orthodox Vespers (for the Sunday of Orthodoxy) at the Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta. On Saturday, March 15 at 4:30pm, there are Central Georgia-wise Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Innocent in Bolingbroke. Contact Fr. Theodore for more information.